

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12010

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION - AUG 14-25

1. MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN GROUP HELD MEETING A.M. AUGUST 4 AT FRG MISSION TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES AND THEIR ROLE DURING THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY ITALIAN PERMANENT REP DI BERNARDO WHO WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF WEOS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. ACCORDING TO UK AND BELGIAN REPS LITTLE WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT TODAY'S GATHERING. INITIALLY NONE OF THE MEMBERS WAS WILLING TO SERVE AS ONE OF THE TEN VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE BUT EVENTUALLY GREEKS AGREED TO SERVE AFTER A TELEPHONE CALL TO ATHENS AT FRG EXPENSE. FRANCE DURING AN EC9 MEETING HAD OFFERED TO SERVE BUT TODAY DECLINED THE HONOR AFTER TALKING TO PARIS.

3. NONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE B WHICH WILL DRAFT THE PROGRAM OF ACTION OF CONFERENCE. AFTER A DIRECT REQUEST, CANADIAN REP AGREED TO ASK OTTAWA IF A MEMBER OF THE GOC DELEGATION

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COULD TAKE CHAIRMANSHIP (IF A DELEGATION IS SENT TO MEETING).

4. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT CUBA WILL CHAIR THE COMMITTEE DRAFTING THE CONFERENCE DECLARATION.

5. AS COULD BE EXPECTED AN AFRICAN WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF

THE CONFERENCE. LESOTHO, GHANA AND NIGERIA WERE MENTIONED.
IT IS THE FEELING OF BOTH THE UK AND BELGIAN REPS THAT THE
NIGERIANS WILL CAPTURE THE POST.

6. WEOS DID NOT MAKE ANY DECISION ABOUT A "WALK-OUT" IF
THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE IS RAISED. THERE HAVE BEEN
SEVERAL EVOLVING POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE BY THE WEST:
A) INITIALLY THE NINE WERE GOING TO WALK OUT IF Z-R WAS
MENTIONED.
B) EARLIER THIS WEEK SOME MEMBERS OF THE NINE ALTERED
THEIR POSITION AND SAID IF THE ISSUE WAS RAISED THE NINE
WOULD VOTE NEGATIVE AND THEN WALK-OUT.
C) TODAY IT APPEARS THE WEST MIGHT OBJECT IF Z-R IS
PLACED IN A RESOLUTION BY NOTIFYING CONFERENCE PARTICI-
PANTS THAT WEOS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE. IT
APPEARS THAT A FINAL DECISION WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL THE
ISSUE IS AT HAND. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE NINE, NOT THE
WESTERN GROUP, WILL MAKE THE DECISION. AT THIS POINT IN
TIME ALL WEO'S ARE WISHING AUGUST 14-25 WOULD DISAPPEAR
FROM THE 1978 CALENDAR.

7. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED AS
ZERO HOUR APPROACHES. VANDEN HEUVEL

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